

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 172874
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA:HSAUNDERS.MRC

APPROVED BY NEA;HSAUNDERS

NEA/ARN:MDRAPER

S/S/O:SGOLDSMITH

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O 100114Z JUL 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY PARIS

S E C R E T STATE 172874

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:LIWG

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL RESIGNATION

REF: SAUNDERS DE LABOULAYE (FR. AMB) CONVERSATION
OF JULY 9

1. FRENCH AMBASSADOR DE LABOULAYE CALLED SAUNDERS
EVENING TO JULY 9 TO SAY THAT LEBANESE AMBASSADOR IN
PARIS HAD INFORMED FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER THAT SARKIS
" WOULD TAKE HIS DECISION TO RESIGN THIS VERY NIGHT".
THE AMBASADOR EXPLAINED THAT THE PRESIDENT CONTINUED
TO FIND NO SUPPORT FROM ANY PARTY IN THE LEBANESE CRISIS
AND WAS SEEKING WAYS TO TURN POWER OVER TO INTERIM
GOVERNMENT.

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2. AMB. DE LABOULAYE SAID THAT HIS FOREIGN MINSITER HAD
SENT A MESSAGE TO SARKIS URGING HIM NOT TO RESIGN AND HAD
ALSO SENT A MESSAGE TO DAMASCUS URGING THE SYRIANS NOT TO
PRESS SO HARD AS TO LEAD TO SARKIS RESIGNATION. HE IS
FULLY INFORMED OF WHAT WE HAVE DONE AND HE WAS NOT ASKING
THAT WE DO ANY MORE. HE SIMPLY WANTED US TO KNOW OF THE

LEBANESE APPROACH TO PARIS AND TO FIND OUT IF WE HAD A
PARALLEL APPROACH HERE. SAUNDERS SAID WE HAD HAD NO
SUCH APPROACH HERE.

3. WE WANT YOU TO HAVE THIS NEW INFORMATION IMMEDIATELY
IN CASE IT JIBES WITH NEW SIGNALS YOU ARE GETTING IN
BEIRUT. WE LEAVE TO YOUR DESCRETION WHETHER YOU FEEL
ANOTHER CONVERSATION WITH SARKIS MONDAY MORNING WOULD
BE USEFUL. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, PRESIDENT, PERSONNEL RESIGNATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE172874
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: HSAUNDERS.MRC
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780281-0903
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780779/aaaacoeu.tel
Line Count: 71
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e66d6078-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 aug 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2064451
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENTIAL RESIGNATION
TAGS: PINT, LE, (SARKIS, ILYAS)
To: BEIRUT
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e66d6078-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014